DIGITAL INFORMATION LITERACY AMONG WOMEN MEMBERS OF PANCHAYAT RAJ INSTITUTIONS IN BAGALKOT DISTRICT

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1. Introduction:

Digital Information Literacy is relatively new concept. It is one of the major components in information literacy. The digitally literate can confidently use, manage, create, quote and share sources of digital information in an effective way. The way in which information is used, create and distributed, demonstrated an understanding and acknowledgement of the cultural, ethical, economic legal and social aspects of the information. The digitally literate demonstrate openness, the ability to problem solve, to critically reflect, technical capability and a willingness to collaborate and keep up-to-date promoted by the changing contexts in which they use information.

Ramchandrapuram village near Hyderabad has become India's first e-panchayat, enabling villagers to settle disputes through an express web-enabled system. E-Panchayat means –a web based dynamic digital interface created for each and every panchayat in India, giving information about particular Panchayat in a two way flow of content. Electronic Panchayat or e-Panchayat is one among the various Mission Mode Projects in Government of India and Government of Karnataka, the Ministry of Panchayat Raj is responsible for its implementation to strengthen and transform the scene of rural areas. E-Panchayat's goal is to provide better service delivery to citizens living in rural areas across the country. The main aim of e-Panchayat is to make sure development of local area and to empower grass-root governance by availing wide range of services to citizens, panchayat officials, elected representatives and other knowledge workers at local level.

e-Panchayat is about empowering and developing the grassroots communities at the panchayat levels through creation of virtual community at each level through an interactive and collaborative web portal, the portal run, managed and sustained by the local community through regular information and content management from a bottom-up as well as top-down channels.

2. Review of Literature:

World Wide Literature

Audrey Y. (2019) Describes critical digital literacy studies has multiplied in recent years as an outcome of the improved cultural consumption of digital media as well as the go to the creation of digital media forms. It extends existing digital literacy studies by concentrating on its subfield of digital nationality. Offering that digital nationality is not another dimension or axis of nationality, but a practice through which local events in the numerous scopes of nationality are showed, this article critically studies how the perceptions of digital nationality can provide more vision into the quality of online local involvement those outcomes in rights to and performances of nationality.

Claire Petri. (2017) Describes the ways national, international, and library professional policies address internet access as a human right. This contains verifying the ways rural libraries achieve their regulars human right to the internet and indicating how Mathieson's (2014) outline can be used by library experts and politicians to ensure that people have a physical, intellectual, and social access to the web. The authors intension is to support ease a more expressive definition of access that goes outside just as long as hardware access to bridge the digital divide, but as an alternative emphasizes the requirement for librarian support and technology training if we wish to permit all members of a civilization, without exclusion, to fully appreciate their human rights.

Ojinga G. O. (2019) Reported the regulating result of e-literacy and business information approach on the association between ICT variation and presentation of women- possessed SMEs in Southwestern Nigeria. The theories of information technology trilogy by (Strategy Inf Syst 10:77-99, 2001) coupled with the ICT literacy of (Media Smarts, Digital Literacy Fundamentals, Canada's Center for Digital and Media Literacy Media Smarts, 2017) which in this study is intellectualized as e-literacy-adoption model for improved SMEs presentation. The study implemented the correlational survey research design and contains of women-owned SMEs in Southwestern, Nigeria.

Wang F. (2019) Found to assess the health information literacy (HIL) level and manipulating issues amongst digital immigrants in rural china and to examine their problems of online health information seeking. Cross-sectional study method is used. Digital immigrants aged 45 to 65 in rural China. Self-assessment questionnaires and a semi-structured interview were advanced to measure HIL among 1132 participants. Nonparametric tests and various linear deterioration were employed to clarify the influencing issues.

Ya'arit Bokek-Cohen. (2018) Describe the intellectualize employee's digital skills as indicators with which employees implicitly transport information about their ability and appropriateness to the firm. The article inducements on the Spence's signaling theory. Applying Spence's signaling theory and Walther and Parks's justifying theory allows the conceptualization of digital skills as signals and permits among elder workers who have been employed in their place for an extended dated but yet wish to validate enduring efficiency. The article is a theoretical contribution to the scholarship of digital literacy as well as both signaling and justifying theories.

Indian Literature

Bilawar, P. B. (2017) Describes as an e-information literacy index that offers accurate values to differentiate whether university teacher is literate in esteem to consciousness and use of e-information resources by explaining the features of e-information literate teacher. The existing survey efforts to formulate e-information literacy index of university teachers by taking into deliberation three components viz. responsiveness of e-resources, obtainability of ICT services and use of internet facilities and search methods to recover e-information. The results display that 60.52% teachers are e-information literate.

Dhanya N. (2012) Describes the Akshaya project goals to Bridge the Digital Divide by allowing thousands of normal peoples to access pertinent information in the resident language over the internet. The main objective of Akshaya is to progress an inclusive digital network. The paper based on the study which examined how far Akshaya supports in the e-literacy programme.

Rana, N. (2018) E-government is an institutional method to jurisdictional political processes whether E-governance is a technical method to co-operative administrative relations, i.e. the surrounding of elementary and standard events within the limits of community administrations. It is the latter that performances as the essential that will confirm achievement of the distribution of

E-services. E-letter here in both e-government and e-governance stands for the electronic stage or setup that allows and provisions the networking of community policy expansion and placement. Author find out through their research paper that what is the effect and role of E-government and E-governance in the expansion of rural areas and what are the problems and tasks in the path of e-governance in the growth of rural areas.

Saravana K., Shivalingappa B. P. and Lokesha M. U. (2018) Describes the Digital technology and communication are part of our lives from the start till the end of the day. Technology is accomplishment every feature of society and changing it intensely. But there is one very important and essential part of the humanity that has also been appointed by new developments and findings and that is education with the awareness of E-learning. Digital technology was prejudiced on rural area. In this study expansion through E-learning in rural India is experiential. If it deliberates appropriately then correct then outcomes will be affecting positively. The study originates that digital literacy is an actual tool for authorization of rural women. Digital literacy is learning, using electronic technologies to become self-sustain among rural women in Karnataka.

Smitha, H. S. (2021) Investigated the plans towards authorization of women through digital literacy structures. This paper discovers the essential based policy design towards all comprehensive digital policy. It is the digital literacy rebellion. Technology today is expressively diverse from what it was yesterday. Digital literacy is wanted for women to empower them to have right access to education, right access to employment and right access to impartial resources.

3. Need For the Study:

The study is undertaken for the purpose of investigating the level of competency and digital information literacy among the Women Members of Panchayat Raj Institutions in Bagalkot District. Digital information literacy training has been realized as an essential requirement in the present knowledge society. Digital literacy and information literacy programs have been running parallel for quite some time with explosion of digital information it has become essential to integrate these with parallel streams and make it essential requirements for life-long learning process. Digital information literacy skills may be required as essential component for Women

Members of Panchayat Raj Institutions but it is important to remember that one-time training may not be good enough. It has to be part of continuous learning process and essential component of lifelong learning program. With major trust in ICT by the Government of India. It is pertinent that digital information skills are made important component of all Panchayat Raj Institution Programs.

By participating in political process women have gained a sense of empowerment by asserting control over resources, officials and most of all by challenging men. It also gives many women a greater understanding of the working of politics. Women are also gaining awareness about social problems like education, health, child marriage, child domestic labor, girl child education etc. and e-Government programs and also, they have been taking steps towards tackling of these problems.

But these Women Members of Panchayat Raj Institutions have inherited characteristics like

i. Educational Backwardness.

ii. Financial Backwardness.

iii. Lack of Administration knowledge.

iv. Lack of Awareness About social Problems.

v. Lack of Political Awareness.

Hence, it is necessary to study how these Women Members will use the e-Government information and their digital information literacy level among Women Members of Panchayat Raj Institutions in Bagalkot District.

4. Statement of the Problem:

Digital Information Literacy among Women Members of Panchayat Raj Institutions in Bagalkot District.

5. Objectives of the Study:

The main objectives of the study are:

1. To identify need and purpose of Digital Information and E-Information among Women Members of Panchayat Raj Institutions.
2. To identify the level of Awareness, extent of Use and level of Satisfaction of E-Information Sources, E-Resources and Communication Media.
3. To examine the e-Governance Information among Women Members of Panchayat Raj Institutions.
4. To findout the Digital India Schemes, Projects and Online Services, Various Panchayat Schemes and Level of Knowledge about Women Development Schemes among Women Members of Panchayat Raj Institutions.
5. To know the extent of Usefulness and level of Satisfaction of Library Sources, Services and Facilities among Women Members of Panchayat Raj Institutions.
6. To identify the Problems facing while using E-Resources and Communication Media.

6. Research Methodology:

The study is designed to determine and analyze the Digital Information Literacy among Women Members of Panchayat Raj Institutions. The Descriptive and Survey method will be adopted and used to supplement the data collected through questionnaire and personal interview to enhance its reliability. Collected data has been analyzed and presented in tabular as well as graphical forms using appropriate statistical tools data analysis will be made.

Sampling Technique:

Study population has been selected by using **Stratified Sampling technique**. The study is limited to Bagalkot District, so all ZP and TP Women Members were selected and also each taluka 50% GP women members were selected under the study.

7. Scope and Limitations:

The study is confined to Digital Information Literacy among Women Members of Panchayat Raj Institutions in Bagalkot District. The study population includes Bagalkot district all Panchayat Raj Institutions Women Members as on 2020-2025. There are 9 Talukas (Badami, Bagalkot, Bilagi, Goledadudda, Ilakal, Hungund, Jamkhandi, Mudhol and Rabakavi-Bannatti) and 98 Gram Panchayats.

Level of Panchayat	Number of Panchayat Raj Institutions
Zilla Panchayat	1
Taluka Panchayat	9
Gram/Village Panchayat	98

Source: https//rdpr.kar.nic.in

8. Operational Definitions:

Digital Literacy:

A set of skills to access the internet; find, manage and edit digital information; join communications; and otherwise engage with an online information and communication network.

Digital Information Literacy:

It is an ability to use properly and evaluate digital resources, tools and services and apply it to their life-long process.

Panchayat Raj Institution (PRI):

It is a system of rural local self-Government in India. Local self-Government is the management of local affairs by such local bodies who have been elected by the local people.

Bagalkot District:

Bagalkot district is an administrative district in the Indian state of Karnataka. The district headquarters is located in the town of Bagalkot. The district is located in northern Karnataka and

Borders Belagavi, Gadag, Koppal, Raichur and Vijayapura. The district has consists of nine talukas –Badami, Bagalkot, Bilagi,Goledgudda, Rabakavi-Banahatti, Hunagund, Ilakal, Jamkhandi and Mudhol.

9. Significance of the Study:

Digital literacy is one component of being a digital citizen- a person who is responsible for how they utilize technology to interact with the world around them. The main purpose of the study for Digital Information is to provide the better services to the rural peoples through Women Members of Panchayat Raj Institutions. The Digital Information Literacy level is helping us to analyze the gaps between information literacy and digital information literacy among Women Members of Panchayat Raj Institutions. Government of Karnataka is developed the e-panchayats and so many e-programs /schemes are provided like e-Swathu, Panchamitra, PlanPlus, Panchatantra etc. and also digital literate Women Members of Panchayat Raj Institutions improve the society.

Conclusion:

The digital information literacy changed the traditional methods in Panchayat Raj Institutions through women members and develops the panchayat systems with the help of digital technology. The digital information literacy survey of literature has given an insight into the research carried out it's the related field of study. Further, it has helped to know the methods relevant for the study. Majority of the studies are conducted with the help questionnaires survey and personal interview. The literature survey has also revealed that most of the digital information literacy related studies are conducted abroad. The pace of developments in digital information literacy in the field of Panchayat Raj Institutions is rather slow when compared to other sectors. Thus, necessary to improve the digital information literacy in the field of Panchayat Raj Institutions.

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